The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 10. NO. 47. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1921. WHOLE NO. 515.

DIRECT ACTION FAVORED BY BIG BUSINESS : : :

Up to a few weeks ago big business insisted that the labor provisions of the Cummins-Esch law was the last word in statesmanship. Justice to the railroad employes was the glad refrain, and the public joined in shouts of joy, for "our leading citizens" spoke.

Now big business has been blocked in an attempt to smash these labor provisions, which have been in operation less than a year.

When big business found the law interfered with arbitrary wage reductions railroad managers were ordered to scrap it by rushing the railway labor board off its feet.

"We are on the verge of bankruptcy!" they shrieked.

But the favorite device—scaring the people—has failed.

The proposal is so crude, so lacking in the methods of an artistic Captain Kidd, that no one, outside of office boys for big business, has been found who is courageous enough to defend it.

The law provides regular and orderly methods to change wages or working conditions, but big business favored direct action—they demanded that the law be set aside and they be given a free hand.

And these direct actionists are responsible for the law that they would now ignore because it does not suit their purpose.

No propaganda ever equalled that conducted by the railroads and allied interests for the Cummins-Esch law, for "can't-strike" laws and for higher freight and passenger rates.

They succeeded in two instances, but labor defeated their plan to make strikes criminal. The present railway labor board—two representatives of employes, railroads and the public—was agreed to.

The sincerity of the railroads is now shown in their attempt to defeat the purpose and the spirit of the law.

No group of employers ever made such a sudden about face, or so quickly ignored a public opinion they created. Neither did the defenders of such a group so quickly muffle brass-throated notes that were pitched in defense of "can't-strike" legislation and higher rates.

If it were necessary to prove the need for solidarity among railroad employes, reaction again presents the evidence.

LAWMAKERS TALK PLAIN.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 12.—The claim that Governor Allen has a different legislature on his hands from the one that passed the "can't-strike" law seems to be sustained.

The governor wants the industrial court separated from control of public utilities. A new commission will cost between $60,000 and $100,000 a year, and while the plan is favored by the Allen machine because of new jobs and "opportunities" it does not appeal to those whose taxes will be increased.

During one of the debates the governor's war record was ridiculed. "Henry Allen was over in France exercising an easy job," said the lawmaker.

Representative Piper made this reference to the governor's claim that the industrial court is his bill: "His bill! Why, Henry Allen couldn't have thought out the first paragraph of it."

The governor and Judge Huggins, chairman of the "can't-strike" court, have split and charges and counter charges are being made. The chairman says the governor has been playing politics, and insists that if the court is behind in its work it is because of "propaganda" done under the direction of the governor. The members of the court are divided among themselves, and charges of politics are freely made.

These great and unselfish statesmen, enmeshed in ward politics and a scramble for power, present a spectacle to simple-minded folk who hear them talk about according even-handed justice on the industrial field.

PROFITS TO FIGHT UNIONS.

New York, Feb. 12.—Last year's profits of the American steel foundries that are aplicable to dividends approximate $5,000,000, or about $7.50 a share on common stock.

A few years ago this corporation reduced wages at its plant in Granite City, Ill., and refused to meet a committee of employes.

A strike resulted and an injunction was issued against the strikers by Federal Judge Humphreys, who declared that all picketing is illegal and that the central body is a conspiracy. This decision was set aside by the court of appeals and the corporation took the case to the United States supreme court, where it is now being considered. The case is looked upon as one of the most important ever before the high court.

URGE "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW.

Denver, Feb. 12.—Organized labor in Colorado is aroused because of pending legislation that would outlaw strikes. The plan is backed by every reactionary force in the state. A few years ago these elements secured the passage of a law which makes strikes illegal until after a state commission has investigated. At that time it was claimed that when citizens became acquainted with the facts public opinion would demand justice.

It is a beautiful theory, but its failure has justified labor's predictions. Now reaction would again solve the problem by attempting to stop strikes completely.

PASS ONE-MAN LAW.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 12.—The state legislature has passed the civil administrative code, urged by Governor Hart. The labor sections give unlimited power to one man, to be appointed by the governor, who shall encourage the organization of industrial councils, or company "unions." The act scraps all labor bureaus and will "machinize" bureaus intended to be of benefit to the wage earners of this state. The plan was resisted by the organized workers.

WOULD GUARD FORESTS.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Need for public action to save the remaining forests of the United States from devastation and to provide for timber production on lands already laid waste was urged by Colonel Greeley, chief of the forest service, before the house agricultural committee.

FAVORS GAS WARFARE.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The house of representatives was not affected by tales of the horrors of gas warfare. By a 4 to 1 vote the members refused to reduce an appropriation of $1,500,000 for the government's chemical warfare service for the next fiscal year.

LAW DON'T STOP STRIKES.

Cleveland, Feb. 12. — President Charles F. Thwing of Western Reserve university has returned from a 10-weeks' sojourn in Australia and New Zealand, and is not impressed with anti-strike laws in these countries.

WANT PORTO RICO PROBE.

Washington, Feb. 12.—National lawmakers have been asked to inquire into industrial and governmental conditions of Porto Rico, by Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

The hope is expressed that an investigating commission "may be composed of men who will not, as several commissions in the past have done, accept mere courtesies and superficial official declarations as sufficient evidence upon which to base their attitude, but that the commission be composed of senators who will go to the heart of things to get the real point and views of men of labor, of business, who know, who feel, who understand.

"I want to call your attention to the fact that at this time, owing to extraordinary industrial and economic conditions that prevail in Porto Rico, there are some interests in the island that have started venomous propaganda of independence and secession from the United States, which has no other purpose than to mislead the exploited workers and to keep that island free from the influence of the American people and its democratic institutions, and for the purpose of continuing to use Porto Rico and her people as an organized factory, worked out by cheap peons."

A MAD COMPANY "UNIONIST."

Hoquiam, Wash., Feb. 12.—O. R. Taylor, a member of the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, is mad clear through and has paid his good money for an advertisement in a local newspaper to unburden his woes.

The legion is a company "union," maintained by lumber owners. The "union's" wage board consists of an equal number of employers and employed. The chairman is an employer. At a recent conference of the board wages were reduced, and now Taylor tells how it happened. One of the employes' representatives was absent and the chairman took it upon himself to fill the vacancy. The appointee "happened" to be an employer and the vote to reduce wages was 5 to 3. The membership of the "union" was not consulted.

FOOLING THE PUBLIC.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 12. — When Governor Allen's "can't-strike" court recently ordered the managements of flour mills to give employment to their "skilled and faithful" employes, the incident was given wide publicity and these unorganized workers believed they would secure relief. The public has forgotten the matter and the mills and the court have done just what thinking folks knew they would do—nothing.

The court's order and the wide advertising it received shows that the methods of circus press agents have not been overlooked by budding politicians.

WHAT, AFTER UNIONS?

Houston, Texas, Feb. 12. — "Though you may break the unions, you can't break humanity, you can't break right," declared George Sherwood Eddy, lecturer and author, to a group of business and professional men in this city.

"You may be able to break the unions—the czar did it in Russia," he added significantly. The speaker reviewed conditions throughout the world. "Everywhere," he said, "the peoples who have been held down by entrenched privilege are awakening to their power and are thinking. And they can not be permanently crushed."

RENTS TO GO HIGHER.

Boston, Feb. 12.—Higher rents were predicted by Henry R. Brigham, formerly of the United States housing commission, testifying before a committee of business men who are probing the building situation. Another witness charged that southern lumber interests have combined and are now profiteering. It was stated that the southerners have "a very good thing" and are holding prices at an unreasonable figure.

BOILER MAKERS STRIKE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 12.—Organized boiler makers suspended work rather than agree to the employers' violation of a contract which does not expire until May 1. The bosses want to cut wages 7½ cents an hour for shop work and 20 cents an hour for outside work.

BANKERS FAVOR STRIKE.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 12.—Bankers from tobacco sections in Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky have joined with the Tobacco Association of the United States to urge a limitation of next year's crop.

BASIC INDUSTRIES CHARGE TOP PRICES

Washington, Feb. 12.—Profiteering steel, iron and coal industries are singled out for especial criticism by John Skelton Williams, comptroller of currency, in his annual report.

"By closing down mills and mines the output of steel and iron, following the armistice, was reduced approximately one-fourth for the purpose of enabling manufacturers and operators to obtain, because of the insistent and peremptory demand for coal and iron, the exorbitant profits realized during the war instead of the more moderate profits which they would have to accept if the maximm output had been maintained," said Mr. Williams.

"While the profits of steel manufacturers and coal operators were swollen, the country became poorer from lack of production, brought about by the unnecessary closing down of mills and mines and the incidental idleness of labor. As steel and iron are so largely at the very foundation of industrial activity and business development, it is essential that the prices of these fundamental products should come down to a fair, just and normal basis if we are again to attain the prosperity for which we hope."

The official repeats his charge, made last summer, that a small group of New York bankers set interest rates for call money, raising and lowering them at their pleasure. In answer to the claim that banks should charge a high rate because of the risk involved, Mr. Williams said:

"If the security for these loans was so precarious as to justify such rates of interest, no bank had the right to risk it on the money of depositors. If the security was good the rates were cruelly extortionate exactions from the necessities of borrowers, demoralizing in business, destructive of values, hindrances to prosperity and dangerous to public peace and welfare."

RESIST PRE-WAR TERMS.

New York, Feb. 12.—The International Jewelry Workers' union is resisting the effort of employers to replace the 44-hour week with the 48-hour week and re-establish other pre-war conditions. General Secretary-Treasurer Greenstein of this international, says:

"The excuse that there is a demand on the part of the consumer for lower prices is fairly well contradicted by the declaration from leading manufacturers in principal lines of our industry (Jewelers' Circular, Oct., 1920), stating positively that 'there is no tendency to reduce prices and that the retail jeweler and his customers must expect to pay as much or more in the future for watches, silverware, jewelry, etc., than has been charged in the past.'

"Consequently, by this time no no one can be deceived as to the true motives of their action, no matter in what language they may cloak their intentions. Through the thick cloak of camouflage, such as 'individual freedom,' 'co-operation,' we see organized bossdom using the present as an opportune moment to set the wheels of reaction in motion.

"Our organization is not the only one marked for this vicious assault, though we were given first and exceptional attention by united autocracy."

SAME OLD WHINE.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—Anti-union employers in this city are so lacking in originality that they are using the 20-year-old whines of Parry, Post and Van Cleave to create public opinion in favor of individual bargaining. These employers want "to protect the employer and employe in the right of freedom of contract, to prevent any interference with persons seeking to work and earn a living, and to protect the public right in the free and uninterrupted use of the streets and transportation of persons and goods."

Weeping for the rights of workers and the public is doubly amusing when the exploitation of the workers and the public by these employers is recalled.

EASTERN ROAD WRECKED.

Boston, Feb. 12.—Stockholders of the Boston & Maine railroad have asked the directors of that corporation to file suit for $100,000,000 against the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad. It is charged that this loss was suffered between 1906 and 1914 "as a result of New Haven control."

Attorneys for the stockholders declare that the men who wrecked the Boston & Maine are now wealthy and that the money is needed by the wrecked railroad.

"The fundamental way to cure this 'sick' railroad is to go after these rich former directors and make them pay the freight," it is stated.

BIG BIZ. NOT ALARMED.

New York, Feb. 12.—A Wall street publication voices the views of big business when it calls on brokers not to become excited over differences between railroad managers and railroad shop employes, even though those differences would lead to a strike.

"Attention is diverted," says this publication, "from the most salient factor of the situation, which is that statutory laws guarantee a stipulated return on property values."

OPPOSE EIGHT HOURS.

Sante Fe, N. Mex., Feb. 12.—The Mountain States Telephone company is opposing the proposed eight-hour law for women. This corporation has spent vast sums of money in its fight against organized labor and is now telling legislators what easy work operators have during their 10-hour and longer shifts for day or night work.

PRICES NOT REDUCED.

Hoquiam, Wash., Feb. 12.—Organized teamsters have rejected the suggestion of employers that wages be lowered $1 a day because of reduced living costs. The teamsters declare that they have failed to find a reduction in costs, despite propaganda to the contrary.

WANT ONE DAY'S REST.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—Culinary workers in this state are demanding the passage of a one-day-rest-in-seven law.

MORE MOONEY PERJURY.

New York, Feb. 12.—John McDonald, one of the star witnesses for the state in the prosecution of Tom Mooney, in San Francisco, has confessed that he committed perjury. McDonald says that he was drilled by Prosecuting Attorney Fickert and promised a portion of the $175,000 reward, but was "double crossed."

This confession is but one of many exposes that this trial was a "frame up." Oxman, a principal witness, has been proven guilty of perjury, the testimony of two women has been discredited, and Draper Hand, connected with the bomb squad of the police department at the time of the bomb explosion, has made statements that support these confessions.

Mooney and Billings are now serving life sentences. Attempts have been made to secure new trials, but the courts hold that the record of the trials show no irregularity. As the perjuries were exposed after the record was closed, the matter is now in the hands of Governor Stephens, who can issue pardons and the men can be immediately rearrested and tried on other indictments.

To date the governor has refused to act.

URGE RECLASSIFICATION.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Representatives of 38 A. F. of L. affiliates have organized a trade union legislative council of national scope to secure the enactment of a reclassification law for the United States civil service. The Lehlbach bill, now before the house committee on reform in the civil service, will be urged, with amendments agreed upon by the various groups of government employes effected. The council elected as its chairman Luther C. Steward, president of the National Federation of Federal Employes. About 50 A. F. of L. affiliates have members in government employ and these organizations will be invited to join the council.

The Lehlbach bill provides a new salary scale for government service, with a minimum entrance of $1,080 a year and a promotion system leading to a rate of $5,040 a year for the senior grade of the clerical, professional and other specialized groups. Executives, heads of bureaus and major services, and some highly trained specialists, are rated from $5,400 up, according to responsibilities. For the skilled trades the prevailing rate in private employment will apply.

The bill provides a living wage for thousands of government workers who are receiving wages of $2.50 a day down to $1 a day; to provide opportunity for promotion on the basis of qualification only and to equalize opportunities for advancement and rates of pay, irrespective of sex.

HUGE MINE PROFITS.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Estimated profits of 21 mining companies operating in Pocahontas coal fields of West Virginia, some of which were as high as 200 per cent, has been placed before a senate committee.

One corporation with an investment of $178,000 made a profit of $478,000 in the first nine months of 1920.

Another corporation, with an investment of $163,000 made $133,000 in nine months of 1920, or a profit of 109 per cent on capital. A third, with $1,438,000 invested, made $716,000 during the same period, a rate of 67 per cent, while its profits in 1919 were estimated at 30 per cent. Its production was 470,000 tons.

A statistician of the senate investigating committee cited cases where coal owners took $7.91 profit on coal that cost $4.12 to mine. The lowest profit, per ton, he estimated was $1.72 a ton, but only June, July and August earnings were considered.

FAKE CO-OPERATORS.

Champaign, Ill., Feb. 12.—Fake co-operators have hard sledding in this section of the state. Trade unionists are acquainted with the Rochdale system of co-operation which is based on correct principles, and these workers decline to contribute funds to alleged co-operators, who elect officers and manage the entire affair.

Under the Rochdale system every member has an equal voice regardless of the amount of stock he holds. Goods are sold at the prevailing market prices, and members are then given a refund over actual expenses, in proportion to the amount of money they have expended at the co-op. store.

COURT EVICTS MINERS.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 12. — The state supreme court has upheld the eviction of striking miners from coal owners' houses. To protect the women and children of these workers, the United Mine Workers has provided tentage and equipment.

To keep the 11,000 miners in subjection the state has 11 companies of troops in the field doing police duty for the mining companies. Meetings of all kinds have been suppressed and it is impossible to hold a business meeting of the union without the presence of troops.

IMITATE UNION LABEL.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 12.—Several broom manufacturers in this city rejected the union shop and collective bargaining, but they do love the patronage of unionists and sympathizers. In their attempt to hold this patronage they have adopted a label with the wording "Amalgamated Broom and Whisk Makers' union."

There is no such organization and the officers of the bona fide International Broom and Whisk Makers' union are calling attention to the tactics of these employers.

MEAT CUTTERS GAIN.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 12.—Meat Cutters' union No. 656 has signed an agreement with packing houses and wholesalers. The work week will be 45 hours, with a basic rate of $45, and time and one-half for overtime.

REJECT NON-UNIONISM.

Cleveland, Feb. 12.—The city council ignored the builders' exchange protest against the union shop policy of city officials in the erection of municipal buildings.

AGAINST TAMPERING WITH SEAMEN'S ACT

Washington, Feb. 12.—Three marine organizations have created the seafarers' council to protect the La Follette seamen's law. The organizations are the International Seamen's union, the National Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots and the National Engineers' Benevolent association. A committee has developed a program which includes the setting up of a local seafarers' council, or triple alliance, in each of the principal ports of the country.

"If we do not misjudge existing tendencies," says the committee, "we shall shortly have to meet the most serious efforts on the part of the shipping interests to so change the laws governing the personnel, the vessels and inspection service as to place us in a very difficult and disagreeable position.

"We believe that laws injurious to the merchant marine will be proposed. We believe that by working together and making the best use of our technical and other knowledge, we may be able to either prevent such legislation or to so modify it as to cause it to do the least harm.

"We believe that the merchant marine service needs further laws for its protection and development; that the United States inspection service needs greater freedom from ship owners' influence in order to properly perform its very difficult and, to the public, most important duties. We believe that by co-operation we may be able to assist in these matters.

"We know that certain very important provisions of the seamen's act have failed to effectuate. We believe that by such co-operation we can improve upon the situation and thereby assist in bringing the operating wage cost of foreign competitors up to the American standard."

SOLIDARITY NOT DEAD.

Manchester, England, Feb. 12.—The world war has not permanently divided workers in the opposing nations, according to this story, printed in the Cotton Factory Times:

"Beneath the surface controversies that seem to rend asunder the whole international labor movement there exists a reality of solidarity, an example of which has just been furnished by the shipwrights' strike in this country. The shipwrights, it will be remembered, struck against the attempt of the employers' federation to reduce wages 12 shillings a week and the strike still continues. The employers turned to German yards to do the work for them at rates which the low exchange would make cheap. But at this point the German Ship Joiners' union came in. Acting through the International Wood Workers' union they placed an embargo on any blackleg work from Britain. The ship Themistocles of the Aberdeen line was sent to Hamburg for repairs, but the German union prohibited the work. This practical solidarity is going to matter more for the future of Anglo-German relations than any amount of diplomatic conferences."

WHO PAYS THE BILLS?

Columbis, Ohio, Feb. 12.—"Who pays the bills for cossack law agitation?"

This question was asked at a hearing before a state legislative committee that is considering legislation that would establish the cossack system in this state. The question was not answered. At the hearing cossack advocates presented representatives from Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York, where the system operates.

Trade union opposition was presented by several well-known organized workers, including John P. Frey, editor International Molders' Journal; Percy Tetlow, statistician, United Mine Workers of America; James H. Maurer, president Pennsylvania state federation of labor, and David Williams, secretary-treasurer Pennsylvania district, International Association of Machinists. The two latter unionists told how the cossacks work in their state during strike times.

Secreary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor informed the legislative committee that the expenses of the Pennsylvania unionists were paid by the Ohio organized workers.

ANTI-UNIONIST QUITS.

New York, Feb. 12.—William H. Barr, president of the anti-union National Founders' association, has resigned the presidency of the interracial council. The interracial council is composed mainly of large employers who are attempting to take charge of the entire immigration question.

Barr injected the anti-union issue in the council and the other employers realized that this weakened the council, which claimed to be non-partisan on the union question. Recently John Golden and John P. Frey resigned from the council. The former is president of the United Textile Workers of America and the latter is editor of the International Molders' Journal.

BOSSES ARE WARNED.

Wilmington, Del., Feb. 12.—The wage reduction demand of contracting painters, who asked that rates be cut from 90 cents an hour to 75 cents, was given a hot reception by House Painters' union No. 634.

The unionists declined, and in a public statement told the reason why. The employers were notified that "they are not dealing with a group of first-grade school children," and that if the union concludes to go into the contracting business "the fur will fly."

HEARTLESS COAL OWNERS.

Williamson, W. Va., Feb. 12.—The heartlessness of coal owners in this section is shown in a statement issued by them in which they assail striking miners who have been evicted from company houses and are forced to live in tents with their wives and children against the snow covered mountains.

The coal owners declare that the miners would rather live in this condition than work.

EIGHT HOURS BY LAW.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 12.—Representative Holland has introduced a bill in the state legislature which would establish the eight-hour day in mines, mills and manufacturing establishments of this state, with time and one-half for overtime.

BOASTED PRICE CUTS AMOUNT TO NOTHING

Boston, Feb. 12.—The claim by anti-union publicity forces that living costs justify wage reductions is compared with the government's figures on price reductions by Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal. He calls attention to the report of the United States bureau of labor statistics, which shows that for the month of October 15 to November 15, 1920, there was a decrease in the cost of food products ranging, in different localities, from one-half of 1 per cent to 3 per cent. The general average is about 1 per cent. For a seven-year period, 22 leading articles of food, which were rated at 100 in 1913, are now rated at 193, or a present advance of 93 per cent over the prices of 1913.

"As the present rate of decline of food prices seems to be about 1 per cent a month," says Editor Baine, "it will take over three years before food prices will decline to the level of the increases in wage rates that shoe workers have received.

"But food is only one of our living costs. Wage earners are under the burden of high rents, high cost of coal, wood and lighting, and transportation of persons and goods is at a cost higher than ever before, with no prospect of reduction.

"If any reduction in the wages of shoe workers is ever to be considered as worthy of discussion, it should only be when, by a lowering of the total cost of living, the purchasing power of the advanced wages is greater than it was before the war. In computing this purchasing power those items of living cost that are not being reduced must always be figured.

"At the present rate of progress in reducing the cost of living it might well be more than five years before shoe workers at the present wage rate would be as well off as they were in 1913.

"Taxation also is an important factor in the high costs of living. It has been estimated that national, state and municipal taxes today total over $500 per year per family of five persons. In the last analysis these taxes fall with crushing force upon the wage earners and it is absolute folly for employers to expect any material reduction in labor costs as long as such war taxation exists.

"Moreover, the wage earners think they are entitled to more than the husks of industry. They feel entitled to a progressive betterment of their material condition in life. We think employers could better concern themselves with an effort at remedying the conditions under which extortion and profiteering of the rankest sort are being practiced upon the whole people."

PROGRESS EVER RESISTED.

Philadelphia, Feb. 12.—In recounting efforts by Thaddeus Stevens in 1834 to establish the common school system in this state, the North American recalls methods that are applied today. The editor says:

"Powerful interests were implacably opposed to popular education upon the ground that it would tend to level class distinctions and endanger the sanctity of property, and they inspired a widespread agitation for repeal. They were able to capitalize discontent which arose when it was realized that the new system would involve heavier taxation, and the state was soon convulsed by a struggle between the advocates and opponents of free schools. In countless communities the conflict split business and social groups into factions, disrupted church memberships, even divided families; there were sections where boycott or ostracism threatened any man who dared to champion the principle, and where the enmities created persisted for a generation."

DEFINES LIVING WAGE.

Boston, Feb. 12.—"A living wage," said Arthur Huddle, of the building trades council, "should be sufficient to permit a man to support himself and family in comfort, educate his children as they should be educated and put something away for a rainy day."

The unionist made this statement before a committee of the chamber of commerce that is investigating the housing situation.

Huddle declared that even if the wage of organized labor were reduced, the mass of unorganized workers would receive no benefit as their wages would be cut in proportion. He said organized labor raised the standard of wages for all and it did not intend to go backward.

"We're not going back one step to meet the unorganized—not one step," he said.

FAVOR SMALLER ARMY.

Washington, Feb. 12. — Congress has rejected President Wilson's veto of a bill limiting the size of the army to 175,000 men. In the senate the vote was 67 to 1 against the veto. The house vote was 271 to 16.

This means that the war department must cease its efforts to get the army up to a strength of 280,000 authorized under the army reorganization act. The department had refused to make the size of the army conform to the appropriation of congress and some feeling has been developed between the executive branch and the lawmaking branch. The present strength of the army approximates 220,000 men.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 12.—Commercial shop members of Typographical union No. 18 have secured wage increases through arbitration. The old rate of $44.50 for day work and $47.50 for night work is increased to $46.50 and $51.50, and will date back to November 1, last.

Galesburg, Ill., Feb. 12.—The new wage agreement negotiated by Typographical union No. 288 provides for increased wages in some branches. Newspapers and commercial shops are affected.

TO END LEASING SYSTEM.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 12.—The state has purchased 1,400 acres of land near this city for a new state prison. Recent legislation provides that the convict lease system in mines shall be abandoned in January, 1923, and it is proposed to make the new prison self sustaining.

WOULD DISBAND COSSACKS.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 12.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature to disband the state cossacks and sell the property of that organization.

PURPOSE OF ANTI-UNIONISTS IS EXPOSED BY CHURCH MEN

Washington, Feb. 12.—The national association of manufacturers will not favor collective bargaining, even if confined to the individual shop.

The national Catholic welfare council, department of social service, makes the above declaration in a statement defending its opposition to the anti-union shop.

It is stated that practically every clergyman of that denomination in the United States has received a criticism of this opposition which is similar to the position taken by the federal council of churches (Protestant.)

The defense of the anti-union shop now being circulated, is an attempt to discredit the opposition of the two religious bodies to the system of individual bargaining.

In its reply the national Catholic welfare council refers to the national grange (which favors the anti-union shop) as "that small body of rural aristocrats," and the council denies that the United States chamber of commerce represents the sense of a community.

"Notwithstanding its sprinkling of professional men," it is stated, "the average chamber of commerce represents the viewpoint of the employing class exclusively, whenever it makes a pronouncement concerning the relations between capital and labor.

"In general, few if any of the organizations that have declared in favor of the 'open shop' avow their attitude toward collective bargaining. This is the vital issue. Unless the members of a union are permitted to deal with the employer as a body, their union membership is futile.

"An 'open shop' which allows the employes to belong to a union, but does not permit the union to deal with the employer as a union is worthless. Not only has no 'open shop' organization declared that the 'open shop' employer would deal with the union, but every such organization that has confessed its attitude on this subject has admitted that this practice would not be tolerated.

"Several representatives of employer groups have protested to the social action department against its statement that the 'open shop' is intended to destroy the unions. Upon examination, every one of them admitted that the 'open shop' which they are advocating, would not permit dealing with the unions. The spokesman for the national association of manufacturers was informed that if that body would make a public statement to the effect that the 'open shop' is consistent with proportional representation by the union employes in a system of collective bargaining, even confined to the individual shop, the social action department would withdraw its statement against the 'open shop.'

"This gentleman declared that the national association of manufacturers would make no such statement, and admitted that this organization really desired to cripple the unions. Up to the present, no authorized representative of an 'open shop' has denied that collective bargaining with the union is inconsistent with the 'open shop.'"

OPPOSE COAL BILL.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Organized coal miners are suspicious of the bill introduced by Senator Calder to "regulate" the coal industry. Testifying before a senate committee, William Green, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, said unionists faced prosecution under the war-time Lever act and that the Calder bill would extend legislation having similar principles into peace time.

"We fear governmental authority in the fixing of wages," he said, "and we are apprehensive lest the courts construe the emergency sections of the Calder bill so that miners may be compelled to work regardless of wage conditions.

"We are unwilling to submit the lives and destinies of the men we represent to the will of any one man, no matter how great or good he may be. We note that these laws may be passed with the intention of hitting at profiteers, dishonest men engaged in business, but they actually go into action only against the laboring man. We know of no coal operators tried, convicted and sentenced under the Lever law, under which officers of the miners union have been prosecuted."

REVOKE "NO-POLITICS."

Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 12.—D. B. Hanna, chairman of the board of directors of the Canadian national railway system, has been defeated in his attempt to debar employes from engaging in politics. Three employes who were discharged for violation of the order are recommended to be reinstated.

The above is contained in a majority report of the conciliation board appointed by the minister of labor to adjust this much-discussed order.

The report states that the order was based on a declaration by the government when it took over the railroads that political patronage and political interference would be eliminated. This position is acceptable to the employes but they insist that 'this sentiment was construed that they could not take part in politics even though their loyalty and service to their employment was unquestioned.

COAL OWNERS BOYCOTT.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Declaring that he was "put out of business" because he refused to hold up prices, John C. L. Ritter of this city told a senate committee of the methods employed by the Coal Dealers' association. The witness said a representative of a coal mining company suggested that he raise his price 25 cents a ton each week until he got only 10 or 15 cents below the association prices. He refused, and after April, 1920, he could get no coal.

"There wasn't a man in the country who would contract to give me my next year's supply," he said.

No prosecution has been instituted under anti-trust laws, Ritter said, but civil suit has been brought, although his attorney has informed him that "this bunch is too strong for us."

URGE MINE STRIKE PROBE.

Washington, Feb. 12. — Senator Johnson has introduced a joint resolution calling for an investigation of the West Virginia mine strike.

Senator Kenyon, chairman of the senate committee on education and labor, said it would be impossible for his committee to investigate the question in the short time before March 4, when this congress adjourns. The resolution was referred to the committee on audit "to decide if, in their judgment, the investigation should be made."

HUGE EXCESS PRODUCED.

Washington, Feb. 12. — While statesmen and editors were lecturing workers last year on the evils of less production the department of commerce reports that manufactured goods led in the exports of the country for 1920 with a value of $3,304,382,109, as compared with $2,563,584,756.

These figures are the best answer to the slander and hysteria that was leveled against workers, until the present unemployment, which workers have no part in creating, silenced the mongers.

RENTS GO SKYWARD.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 12. — Rents are increasing in this city, according to Councilman Dailey, who wants the city fathers to ascertain if landlords are justified in blaming the tax rate.

LEASE RAISING ILLEGAL.

San Francisco, Feb. 12.—Superior Court Judge Van Nostrand has ruled that a landlord cannot evict a tenant who refuses to pay more rent than his lease calls for.

WAGES AND PRICES.

London, England, Feb. 12.—"Labor is the human side of industry and must be considered in the terms of men and women and children," said J. R. Clynes, trade unionist and member of parliament, in discussing wages and prices in a local newspaper. Clynes was British food controller during a portion of the world war.

"Sacrifice can not be carried far by the families of wage earners," he said. "Life standards must be maintained.

"Prices were raised very soon after the war began, and long prior to any demand for increased wages. Indeed, that demand arose only because the pressure of ascending prices was too great for the workers to bear.

"But many factors have increased prices in addition to such higher wages as the workers may have obtained. In many industries and businesses profits have been increased in a greater degree than wages, and advantage has been taken of the artificial conditions in which trade had to be conducted during the war to increase enormously the value of a number of business and interests.

"As prices went up without the influence of higher wages, what guarantee is there that prices would be reduced if wages were reduced? It would be difficult to convince the workers that wage reductions, if agreed to, will ensure a substantial reduction in the cost of living."

CAN'T AFFORD CUTS.

Philadelphia, Feb. 12.—In urging a state-wide conference of employers and employed, to consider the wage question, William J. Tracy, chief of the state bureau of mediation, said:

"The result of our investigation shows that while the employer has good arguments to reduce wages, the employe cannot take the reductions at this time. The investigation shows that the staple articles have not been reduced. Bread, butter, coal, milk, etc., are just as high as ever. While clothing has come down, it is not an important item to the workers. Now, while these staple articles are up, the employer asks for wage reductions. The worker is frequently compelled to pay more rent than ever. I know of several cases where rents were jumped $15 in one month when the wages of the men were cut."

RAILROADS AIDED AGAIN.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The house passed the Winslow bill, providing for the payment of $340,000,000 to the railroads as partial payment for funds due them under the provisions of the Cummins-Esch law which guarantees them against losses during the first six months of the operation of the act.

The comptroller of the treasury has ruled that no money can be paid until the railroads have presented an itemized report of their losses, and this, the roads declare, is impossible in so short a time. The roads interested the United States chamber of commerce and attempts were made to "go over the head" of the comptroller, but it was found that he has the law on his side. Congress was then appealed to.

OPPOSE SHAM ECONOMY.

San Francisco, Feb. 12.—Organized labor is opposing Gov. Stephens' "efficiency and economy" plan insofar as it affects the abolition of state boards that deal with social and labor problems.

The executive council of the state federation of labor has passed this resolution:

"We insist that there shall be no curtailment in the progressive and humanitarian work of our state government. Certain reactionary forces, under the guise of economy, are attempting to muddle and becloud the issue. But they must not be permitted to make thrift and economy a slogan for reaction."

LACK OF EFFICIENCY.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Last winter apple shippers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho filed claims against railroads amounting to over $2,000,000 to cover losses from freezing.

The department of agriculture has perfected a car that will eliminate these losses—if the railroads will adopt same.

CARPENTERS WANT MORE.

Hamilton, Ontario, Feb. 12.—Organized carpenters have asked contractors to advance rates from 85 cents an hour to $1. Other demands include the union shop, double pay for overtime and weekly pay days.

REJECT NAVAL HOLIDAY.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The senate committee on naval affairs is almost unanimous against Senator Borah's plan to suspend naval construction for a period of six months.